

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions of the claims with the following listing of the claims. Please note that in the amendments to the claims, deletions are indicated by strikethrough (e.g. ~~deletion~~) or double brackets (e.g. [[word]]) and additions to the claims are underlined (e.g. addition).

1-17. **(Canceled)**

18. **(Previously presented)** A method of providing spinal fixation, comprising the steps of:

providing a fixation device that comprises a body having a first portion that forms a bone anchor and a second portion that forms a proximal end, the first and second portion of the body detachably coupled to each other at a junction;

advancing the bone anchor of the fixation device through a facet of a first vertebra to position a distal tip of the bone anchor within a pedicle of a second vertebra;

advancing a proximal anchor distally over retention structures on the body to reduce the distance between the bone anchor and the proximal anchor, thereby applying compression between the facet on the first vertebra and the second vertebra; and

mechanically decoupling the second portion from the first portion after the proximal anchor is advanced distally along the fixation device.

19-22. **(Canceled)**

23. **(Original)** The method of Claim 18, wherein the step of advancing the bone anchor of the fixation device into a second vertebra comprises rotating the bone anchor.

24-25. **(Canceled)**

26. **(Original)** The method of Claim 18, comprising drilling a bore in the first vertebra having a diameter slightly larger than the outside diameter of the proximal anchor.

27. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 18, further comprising adjusting the angle between a longitudinal axis of the body and the proximal anchor with respect to a longitudinal axis of a flange.

28-32. **(Canceled)**

33. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 18, wherein separating and removing the second portion from the first portion comprises rotating the second portion with respect to the first portion.

34. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 18, wherein the second portion of the body comprises part of a device used to advance the bone anchor into the pedicle of the second vertebra.

35. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 18, wherein the first vertebra is the L-5 vertebra and the second vertebra comprises the S-1 portion of the sacrum.

36. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 18, wherein the first and second vertebra are in a cervical region of a spine.

37. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 18, further comprising advancing the proximal anchor distally along the fixation device before the body is advanced through the facet of the first vertebra.

38. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 18, comprising advancing the proximal anchor distally along the fixation device after the bone anchor is advanced into the pedicle of the second vertebra.

39. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 18, wherein step of advancing the proximal anchor over the retention structures comprises advancing the proximal anchor over at least 10% of the overall length of the fixation device.

40. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 18, wherein step of advancing the proximal anchor over the retention structures comprises advancing the proximal anchor over at least 20% of the overall length of the fixation device.

41. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 18, wherein step of advancing the proximal anchor over the retention structures comprises advancing the proximal anchor over at least 50% of the overall length of the fixation device.

42. **(Canceled)**

43. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 18, wherein the step of advancing the proximal anchor over the retention structures comprises advancing the proximal anchor over a series of ridges.

44. **(Currently Amended)** A method of treating the spine, comprising the steps of:

providing a fixation device that comprises a body having a distal anchor and a proximal anchor;

advancing the distal anchor of the fixation device through a facet of a first vertebra and into a pedicle of a second vertebra;

rotating the fixation device to engage the distal anchor with the pedicle; and

moving the proximal anchor distally over retention structures on the body to reduce the distance between the distal anchor and the proximal anchor, such that a locking element on the proximal anchor engages at least one retention structure on the body thereby applying compression between the first and second vertebra.

45. **(Previously presented)** A method of treating the spine, comprising the steps of:

providing a fixation device that comprises a body having a distal anchor and a proximal anchor;

advancing the distal anchor of the fixation device through a facet of a first vertebra and into a pedicle of a second vertebra;

rotating the fixation device to engage the distal anchor with the pedicle;

moving the proximal anchor distally over retention structures on the body to reduce the distance between the distal anchor and the proximal anchor, such that a locking element on the proximal anchor engages at least one retention structure on the body thereby applying compression between the first and second vertebra; and

drilling a bore in the first vertebra having a diameter slightly larger than the outside diameter of the proximal anchor.

46. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 44, wherein the body comprises distal and proximal portions that are detachably coupled to each other at a junction.

47. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 45, further comprising separating and removing the proximal portion from the distal portion.

48. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 47, wherein separating and removing the proximal portion from the distal portion comprises rotating the proximal portion with respect to the distal portion.

49. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 48, wherein the proximal portion of the body comprises part of a device used to advance the distal anchor into the pedicle of the second vertebra.

50. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 44, wherein the first vertebra is the L-5 vertebra and the second vertebra comprises the S-1 portion of the sacrum.

51. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 44, wherein the first and second vertebra are in a cervical region of a spine.

52. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 44, further comprising coupling the proximal anchor to the body before the body is advanced through the facet of the first vertebra.

53. **(Previously presented)** The method Claim of 44, further comprising coupling the proximal anchor to the body after the distal anchor is advanced into the pedicle of the second vertebra.

54. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 44, wherein step of moving the proximal anchor distally over the retention structures comprises moving the proximal anchor over at least 10% of the overall length of the fixation device.

55. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 44, wherein step of moving the proximal anchor over the retention structures comprises moving the proximal anchor over at least 20% of the overall length of the fixation device.

56. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 44, wherein step of moving the proximal anchor over the retention structures comprises moving the proximal anchor over at least 50% of the overall length of the fixation device.

57. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 44, wherein the step of moving the proximal anchor over the retention structures comprises moving a slip ring over the retention structures.

58. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 44, wherein the step of moving the proximal anchor over the retention structures comprises moving the proximal anchor over a series of ridges.

59. **(Previously presented)** A method of facet to pedicle fixation with secondary compression, comprising the steps of:

providing a fixation device that comprises a body having a distal anchor and a proximal anchor;

advancing the distal anchor of the fixation device through a facet of a first vertebra and into a pedicle of a second vertebra;

rotating the fixation device to engage the distal anchor with respect to the second vertebra; and

axially shortening the fixation device thereby reducing the distance between the distal anchor and the proximal anchor, such that a locking element on the proximal anchor engages at least one retention structure on the body thereby applying compression between the first and second vertebra.

60. **(Previously presented)** A method of facet to pedicle fixation with secondary compression, comprising the steps of:

providing a fixation device that comprises a body having a distal anchor and a proximal anchor;

advancing the distal anchor of the fixation device through a facet of a first vertebra and into a pedicle of a second vertebra;

rotating the fixation device to engage the distal anchor with respect to the second vertebra;

axially shortening the fixation device thereby reducing the distance between the distal anchor and the proximal anchor, such that a locking element on the proximal anchor engages at least one retention structure on the body thereby applying compression between the first and second vertebra; and

drilling a bore in the first vertebra having a diameter slightly larger than the outside diameter of the proximal anchor.

61. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 59, wherein the body comprises distal and proximal portions of the body that are detachably coupled to each other at a junction.

62. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 61, further comprising separating and removing the proximal portion from the distal portion.

63. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 62, wherein separating and removing the proximal portion from the distal portion comprises rotating the proximal portion with respect to the distal portion.

64. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 61, wherein the proximal portion of the body comprises part of a device used to advance the distal anchor into the pedicle of the second vertebra.

65. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 59, wherein the first vertebra is the L-5 vertebra and the second vertebra comprises the S-1 portion of the sacrum.

66. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 59, wherein the first and second vertebra are in a cervical region of a spine.

67. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 59, further comprising coupling the proximal anchor to the body before the body is advanced through the facet of the first vertebra.

68. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 59, further comprising coupling the proximal anchor to the body after the distal anchor is advanced into the pedicle of the second vertebra.

69. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 59, wherein step of moving the proximal anchor distally over the retention structures comprises moving the proximal anchor over at least 10% of the overall length of the fixation device.

70. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 59, wherein step of moving the proximal anchor over the retention structures comprises moving the proximal anchor over at least 20% of the overall length of the fixation device.

71. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 59, wherein step of moving the proximal anchor over the retention structures comprises moving the proximal anchor over at least 50% of the overall length of the fixation device.

72. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 59, wherein the step of moving the proximal anchor over the retention structures comprises moving a slip ring over the retention structures.